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CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson, PIO
Public Information and Communications Manager
City of Salisbury
217 S. Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144
Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050
Home Phone: 704-633-7123
Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>
Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov

Citizens Encouraged to “Discover What’s Outside” During 2010 Salisbury Sculpture Show

*Nineteen Sculptures Placed Throughout Downtown Area to Promote Cultural Awareness
through Variety of Artistic Styles and Materials*

Salisbury, NC _May 4, 2010 – The City of Salisbury and the Salisbury Public Art Committee cordially invite citizens and visitors to enjoy the Salisbury 2010 Sculpture Show currently underway. The exhibit offers nineteen sculptures by artists from eight different states with sculpture viewing available from April 1 through December 31 of this year. Sculptures are located throughout Downtown Salisbury and beckon viewers to “Discover What’s Outside.” Each work has been strategically placed to complement the unique qualities of each piece.

The 2010 Sculpture Show offers the second in a series of annual art displays for Downtown Salisbury. The 2009 Salisbury Sculpture Show offered fourteen distinctive works; this year’s exhibit provides an even larger collection with the inclusion of five additional sculptures. Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council offers, “We are sincerely honored to display these unique and creative works throughout our city and we congratulate the Salisbury Public Art Committee on their outstanding achievement for the second straight year. Downtown Salisbury truly provides a wonderful venue to create an atmosphere of arts education and cultural activity.” Kluttz shares that the Salisbury Cultural Action Plan, adopted by Council during November of 2008, promotes community stewardship in support of local arts and cultural development. The plan identifies key components of Salisbury’s cultural landscape and further allows for continued growth and sustainability of arts-based resources. “The Salisbury community is rich in arts appreciation and citizen support. By linking our cultural resources to key economic, educational, and social goals, we are better able to create sound procedural support for our existing resources and for enabling the emergence of volunteer arts and cultural organizations. The Salisbury Sculpture Show offers an exceptional signature event that complements our local historic preservation efforts by offering a parallel commitment to contemporary cultural expression.”

Lynn Raker, Salisbury Urban Design Planner, shares that sculptures were selected through an open and advertised application process. The selection committee chose works that represent a wide range of artistic styles and expressive techniques. Raker notes, “The walking tour for sculpture locations within the historic Main Street and Downtown Salisbury area provides a delightful journey. The first stop on the sculpture tour begins inside the Rowan County Visitors Center at 204 East Innes Street. Art

enthusiasts will be greeted by Don Green's *Madonna '01*, currently on display inside the Center. From this location, simply follow the 2010 Salisbury Sculpture Show brochure map to enjoy the eighteen outdoor installations." Raker notes that maps are available inside the Rowan County Visitors Center and at additional locations throughout the City. In addition, downloadable copies are available online by visiting The Salisbury Sculpture Show website at www.salisburysculpture.com.

Public Art Committee Chairman Barbara Perry credits Edward and Susan Norvell for their vision in giving financial support to the sculpture show for two years. "Their ongoing support for this and other community history and arts events has contributed to Salisbury becoming a cultural hub."

Judging for the 2010 Salisbury Sculpture Show was conducted in late April by Jeff York. York is the Public Arts Administrator for the Town of Chapel Hill and the former Director of Public Art and Community Design for the N.C. Arts Council. York exclaims, "I was honored to be asked to judge the Salisbury Sculpture Show and discover "what's outside" in downtown Salisbury. The variety of sculptural forms and materials represented in the show offers something for everyone to enjoy. I really liked the way the works were scattered around the downtown, some very noticeable on street corners and others in more intimate spaces waiting to be found. Together they make for a great way for people to discover all that Salisbury has to offer." York notes that the cultural experience of the local event reflects that of a well-established sculptural exhibit. "For only its second year in existence, the quality of the artists' entries speaks to a more mature venue. There are many outdoor shows around from which the artist can choose to exhibit and this show attracted artists from around the state and beyond." York adds that in judging the show, art award selections are naturally subjective and concludes, "I hope you will enjoy viewing each sculpture and have fun debating with your fellow citizens, your favorites and theirs." The following works have been selected to receive Best in Show Awards for their participation in the 2010 Salisbury Sculpture Show. Detailed comments from Jeff York accompany each piece highlighted below; a brief artist bio follows York's comments on each piece.

Norvell Best in Show, *Tumbling Toward the Sun* by Gary Gresko

"The sculpture draws its strength through a series of contrasts. The ponderous, drum-like, weathered steel elements from which the sculpture is created should suggest something earth-bound, yet they seemingly float skyward and become lighter and more open as they rise. Still, there is a precarious balancing act going on. As the title suggests, they are tumbling up, but like a game of 'jingo,' at any moment they could topple over. The artist has also taken advantage of the play of light and shade of the concave and convex curves to create the sculpture anew upon each viewing."

Gary Gresko, from Oriental, NC, states that his pieces represent many years of diversified work. He uses a broad range of materials and applications for both private and public art. Gresko imagines a world without creativity to be a "dull, drab existence void of excitement and passion," and he hopes that his contributions will inspire, question, and evoke feelings that are within all of us. Gresko's work includes free-standing and wall sculpture, as well as garden amenities and furniture. Examples of his commissioned work may be seen at Elon College and the Harbor at Oriental.

Second Place, *The Burning* by Paris Alexander

“Although somewhat static and heavy as the materials from which the sculpture was carved, I appreciated the craftsmanship and labor required of the artist to free the image from the stone. The rough solidity and verticality of the limestone hand contrasts well with the smooth, horizontal marble slab on which it is placed. There is a story being told by the two sides of the sculpture, but like an ancient monument recently unearthed, its meaning remains enigmatic.”

Paris Alexander was born and raised in New York City, but has lived in North Carolina for the past twenty-four years. He has shown work in group and solo shows at galleries, universities, and museums throughout the Southeast. His work is also found in numerous private and corporate collections including those of Duke University, Saks Fifth Avenue, SAS Institute, and those belonging to President Bill Clinton and to Senator Bob Dole. Alexander teaches both youth and adults in clay and stone sculpture. He piloted the first Adult Outreach Program for Artspace, working with men in recovery at the Healing Place of Wake County. In the words of Tom Grubb, Executive Director of the Fayetteville Museum of Art, “Though creating artwork with stone is a drastically labor intensive task, Paris Alexander is able to produce unique and beautiful forms with a classical and exuberant essence.”

Third Place, *Tilt* by Bill Wood

“A geometric-shaped, brightly-colored, singular form belies a complexity created through interplay of solid angles and open space within the sculpture. This sets up a figure/ground relationship that only fully reveals itself when the viewer transverses the sculpture. As one walks around the piece, different facets of solids and voids create an array of shapes out of the single form, which intentionally includes the ground shadow, which also changes its geometric shape depending on the time of day. The mirror-like surface of the reverse likewise creates new geometries as the light accentuates one facet or another.”

A current resident of Fairfax, Virginia, Bill Wood studied art at Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas and at the Kansas City Art Institute. He has exhibited throughout the East Coast and Midwest and has taught at Sculpture Resource Center in Glen Echo, Maryland. Wood says *Tilt* is another of his mirrored pieces that uses the reflection of the surrounding environment to at first glance, confuse the viewer, hopefully requiring the viewer to take a second look to clarify what is seen. At the same time, he says, the view framed by the opening in the piece and the reflected image allows *Tilt* to become part of the space it occupies.

Honorable Mention, *Windows of Time* by Dale McEntire

“The colorful shaped glass insets into the weathered steel create a contrast between the opaque and translucent elements. It reminded me of a three-dimensional stained-glass window. The flat front surface gives rise to a more aggressive, saw-toothed reverse side, where the glass elements recede into a shell-like space. The pod-like shape of the sculpture and the imagery on the glass elude to something alive and growing rather than just cold steel.”

This is Dale McEntire’s second year as an exhibitor in the Salisbury Sculpture Show. A native of Western North Carolina, McEntire has been involved in the visual arts since his training at Mercer University, and has continued to evolve as

an artist through private studies in the U.S. and Europe, and through training at Penland School of Craft. McEntire's interest in the spiritual essence of nature can be seen in his use of color and form. *Windows of Time* addresses the stages of life. Each opening contains a cast glass sculpture representing a time frame, and the overall steel form is influenced by the classic Vesica piscis form. McEntire produces both oil and pastel paintings as well as sculpture (stone, steel, glass, and bronze) out of his studio in Saluda, North Carolina. He is represented by galleries in Western North Carolina and the Southeast and is a member of Mountain Sculptors in Asheville, N.C. and Tri State Sculptors. McEntire teaches painting at a local community college.

Artist awards will be presented at noon on Saturday, May 15, during the annual "Art on Easy Street" event. For more information regarding this and other upcoming cultural events in Salisbury, please visit www.visitsalisburync.com.

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full-time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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